

## HAZARD COMMUNICATION FY2006

If you have any questions about Hazard Communications, you may call Mr. Wiley Taylor, Senior Industrial Hygienist at extension 70457 or you may send him an e-mail message.

- 1) The Hazard Communication Standard (29CFR 1910.1200) requires employers to inform and train employees about hazardous chemicals that are present in their work area. This training must identify proper use and handling techniques while working with chemical hazards. Employees should always wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the task being done. Proper PPE may include, but is not limited to, respirator or mask, goggles, protective apron, gloves, and safety footwear.
- 2) Information on hazardous chemicals in your workplace can be found in several places. Product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be in place, and MSDS's should be readily available in the employee work area at all times.
- 3) A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) gives employees detailed information on identification of the material, physical characteristics, health hazards, precautions to observe, disposal guidelines and emergency treatment information.
- 4) MSDS's should be reviewed annually for correctness, and employees must also be made aware of their location. They may be filed alphabetically by chemical name, common name, manufacturer, or by class of chemical.
- 5) The Hazard Communication Program is intended to give all VA employees information and training to protect themselves and others who use or handle hazardous materials. This training must be given annually to all employees. Before any new employee handles any chemical in the workplace, they must receive proper training. Also, if any new chemicals are added to the work area, proper training must be given to everyone who may come in contact with the chemical.
- 6) All containers of hazardous chemicals in the workplace must be labeled, tagged, or marked with the identity of the chemical or product. This label should be readable and match the name of the chemical in the index of the MSDS book and inventory. Also, the label should tell the chemical manufacturer (or responsible party), be displayed where easily seen, and warn you of particular hazards of the chemical.
- 7) According to the Hazard Communications Standard, a current Hazardous Materials Inventory must be kept up to date in each service where the chemicals are used. All

hazardous chemicals must have an MSDS and must be listed in this inventory if used in the work area. The inventory will be subdivided to indicate chemicals used in each section or work area of the service. A copy must be placed in each work area and must be available to all employees on all shifts.

8) The Industrial Hygienist is primarily concerned with the identification and evaluation of potential occupational health hazards. The Industrial Hygiene Program will ensure recognition, evaluation, and control of workplace health hazards. Some chemicals require regular monitoring of the environment, and employees performing work in these areas are measured in relation to these chemicals to assure that the area is safe. Employees must be informed of any personal monitoring results in writing.

9) Hazardous materials are substances that are potentially dangerous to your health and safety. Many kinds of hazardous materials are found in health care settings. A chemical can be a physical hazard, a health hazard, or both. A health hazard can cause damage after a short exposure (acute) or after a longer-term exposure (chronic).